

# The Passaic River

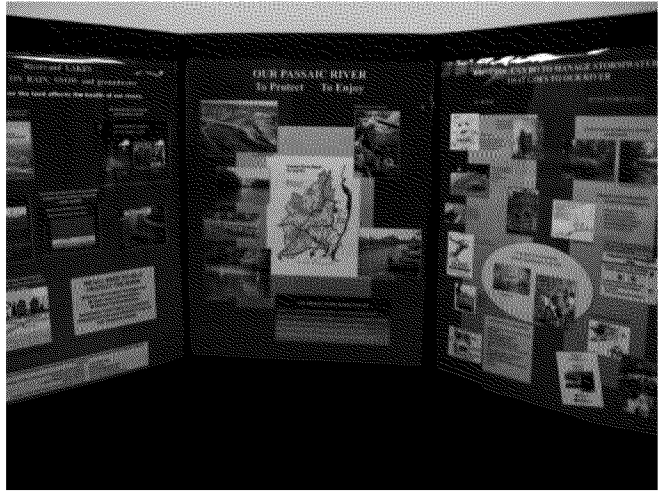
## Essential to a Sustainable Future

**U**nder a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), ANJEC has developed a program to educate the public on ways individuals and communities can restore the health and beauty of the Passaic River and its watershed.

The EPA considers the Passaic System a regional high priority area and a valuable link to northern New Jersey's past industrial development. The Passaic System includes the entire 80-mile length of the River from its headwaters in the New Jersey Highlands to its confluence with Newark Bay, and its watershed, covering 787 square miles in New Jersey and 148 square miles in New York.

The Passaic System supplies:

- drinking water for millions in northern New Jersey by several water purveyors including the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, the Passaic Valley Water Commission, the City of Newark and Jersey City;
- important habitat for the endangered blue-spotted salamander and nesting and resting areas for migrating birds provided both by the River and its thousands of acres of wetlands;
- one of the most flexible multi-purpose cargo centers in the United States at Port Newark, according to the Port Authority. Its facilities include wharves, deep-water ship berths, and three million square feet of distribution buildings, specialized facilities, roadways and direct rail access.



*Passaic River display.*

### Tools for commissions

ANJEC has developed a portable three-panel display on the Passaic and its watershed to highlight the River's functions and the need to protect it. The display shows a map of the 935-square-mile watershed – the main stem of the Passaic River with seven major tributaries (the Rockaway, Whippany, Pequannock, Wanaque, Pompton, Ramapo, and Saddle Rivers). The display illustrates the watershed concept and the importance of precipitation (stormwater) to the health of the river. It also explains the impacts of stormwater runoff and provides specific suggestions about what residents and towns can do to protect the river.

Commissions can borrow the display to exhibit in town halls, libraries or other public buildings or to show at green fairs. To borrow the display, contact the ANJEC Resource Center via email at [resourcecenter@anjec.org](mailto:resourcecenter@anjec.org).

ANJEC has also developed a web site on the Passaic project in partnership with the Passaic River Institute at [www.passaicbasin.org](http://www.passaicbasin.org). 